

Today the United States stands alone as the world's only superpower. Today, more often than not our foreign policy debates concern trade, rather than war; economic issues rather than military issues. It is at times like this, times of peace, that we should pay extra attention to the true purpose of Memorial Day.

The good news is that American citizens understand and respect the role veterans have played in our Nation's history. If you look at the size of the crowds that visit the Korean War Memorial and the Vietnam War Memorial here in DC you get a sense of how Americans feel about their veterans. The same scene is duplicated time and time again at veterans' memorials all across the country. Recently I had the honor of participating in a ceremony marking the progress of the new Veterans' Memorial Park being built in Albuquerque. It is with the creation of special places like this park that our Nation continues to honor the service and sacrifice of all our veterans.

Mr. President, we set aside one day each year to officially honor those who died for our freedom. For all that our military veterans have done for us, it is the least we could do. To all the veterans, thank you.●

MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, it is easy to take for granted the freedom we have here, in the United States, and too often we lose sight of that and resort to complaining about one thing or another, but the fact is, we live in the most blessed Nation in the world, we enjoy the greatest freedom of choice, we enjoy so much, but those freedoms were purchased and protected at a very high cost.

As we prepare to celebrate Memorial Day this year, I call upon my fellow Missourians and all Americans to pause and remember the sacrifice of our soldiers, sailors, Marines, and air men and women stationed around the world today protecting us with a blanket woven with the battle flags from places with names like Lexington, Concord, Gettysburg, Belleau Wood, Pearl Harbor, Coral Sea, Iwo Jima, Saint Lo, Bastogne, Chosin Reservoir, Khe Sahn, Beirut, Wadi Al-Batin, and Medina Ridge in Iraq and most recently, those taken from us in Somalia and by the brutal and cowardly bombing of Kobart Towers.

We must remember the sacrifices of those who came before us, and those whom we most recently lost—the fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters who gave their most precious of gifts, their lives, that we might continue to enjoy the freedoms we hold so dear.

We must remember them so we will focus our determination, as a nation, that we never, ever, waste a life because it is too hard or too expensive to do the right thing. We must take this opportunity to re-dedicate ourselves to make that effort and to ensure that

our military personnel are the best trained, equipped and prepared in the world, because we ask so much of them.●

ORDERS FOR MAY 27, MAY 30, JUNE 2, AND JUNE 3, 1997

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it stand in adjournment until the hour of 10 o'clock on Tuesday, May 27, for a pro forma session only and immediately following the prayer, the Senate stand in adjournment until 11 a.m., Friday, May 30, for a pro forma session only. I further ask unanimous consent that immediately following the prayer on Friday, May 30, the Senate stand in adjournment until 12 noon on Monday, June 2, and further that on Monday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted and the Senate then proceed to a period of morning business until 1 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 3, the Senate proceed to 3 hours of tributes to honor our most distinguished President pro tempore, who will break the all-time Senate record on Sunday, May 25, for the longest Senate service. I know all of our colleagues will want to participate in this worthy tribute to the distinguished Senator from South Carolina, Senator THURMOND.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent on Monday, June 2, at 1 p.m. the Senate resume consideration of S. 4, the comptime-flextime bill which would guarantee a family friendly workplace. Amendments are expected to be offered. However, votes will not occur prior to the hour of 5 p.m.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO FILE REPORTS

Mr. LOTT. I further ask unanimous consent that committees have between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28, to file reports to accompany legislative or executive items.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. For the information of all Senators, it is the hope of the leadership that the budget conference report will be available for Senate consideration on Tuesday, June 3. Therefore, all Senators can expect a rollcall vote on passage of the budget conference report on Tuesday, June 3, hopefully, early in the evening rather than going late into the night.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LOTT. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator CRAIG of Idaho.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for allowing me this time, and I also want to recognize his leadership in the efforts we have just concluded in bringing about a budget and a budget resolution. I think our majority leader, TRENT LOTT, is to be congratulated for a very positive and gallant effort.

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN G. ARSENEAULT

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to recognize a member of my staff who will be retiring next Friday after many years of service to me, the State of Idaho, the Senate, and the Nation.

Norman G. Arseneault came to my office as an American Political Science Association fellow from the Forest Service, USDA more than 6 years ago. He served with distinction in that fellowship program, taking on numerous natural resources problems facing the State of Idaho and working diligently to find solutions. When he completed the fellowship, he returned to the Forest Service to resume what I am sure would have been a distinguished career.

Shortly after he had returned to the Forest Service, it became clear to me that solutions to the natural resources problems we faced—the wilderness debate in my State, endangered species listing, and a host of others—would benefit from Norm's skills. I offered him a permanent staff position, and, fortunately for Idaho, he accepted.

Since then, all in my office have benefited from Norm Arseneault's professionalism, good humor, and integrity. He has developed a reputation on the Hill and in the State of Idaho for honesty, straightforwardness, fairness, and competence. It has been my good fortune to have been among those who have known and worked with him on a day-to-day basis.

As Norm moves on to a new phase in his life, I know the traits that have made him so effective in my office over the past 6 years will service him well in his future endeavors. I am proud to know Norm Arseneault and to have called him friend. I speak for all in my office when I say he will be dearly missed. We wish him the best and God speed.

MEMORIAL DAY, 1997

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, on Monday, many of us will be about the land, speaking to veterans on Memorial Day. Throughout this Nation's history and